

California PTA calls climate change a children's health issue

For the first time, PTA has officially declared climate change as a children's health issue.

In May 2015, delegates to the 2015 California State PTA Convention adopted a resolution entitled "*Climate Change is a Children's Issue.*" The resolution states that children represent a particularly vulnerable group already suffering disproportionately from both direct and indirect adverse health effects of climate change.

By adopting this resolution, PTA is putting climate change on the agenda of PTAs throughout California with the goal of mobilizing over 800,000 California PTA members.

The California State PTA will disseminate the resolution to every PTA in California. The resolution calls on PTAs to educate parents on the impacts of climate change on children's health and future welfare. PTAs offer many ways to reach a wide cross-section of parents through regular PTA meetings, parent newsletters and PTA Facebook pages. PTAs will be encouraged to build coalitions with other groups with similar goals. This resolution will also tie in with PTAs strong support for Safe Routes to School and PTA's focus on children's health issues. The resolution also calls on PTAs to urge school districts to develop climate action plans and educate students on climate and energy literacy and human sustainability.

The resolution was written and submitted by the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs, one of the largest PTA councils in California. The San Diego parents believed it was vital that PTA, the largest volunteer advocacy association working exclusively on behalf of children, speak up for children who don't have a voice. The San Diego team worked on the resolution for nearly two years with assistance from the American Academy of Pediatrics to assemble the research data required by PTA's stringent resolution process.

Now that the resolution has been adopted by California State PTA, the next goal is to have it adopted by the National PTA with nearly five million members nationwide.